

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 4 July 2011

Present: Deputy Vice-Chancellor,  
Professor S Bruzzi,  
Professor A Caesar,  
Professor M Finn,  
Professor C Hughes,  
Professor T Jones,  
Professor J Labbe,  
Professor K Lamberts,  
Professor M Taylor,  
Professor P Winstanley,  
Mr D Stevens.

Apologies: Vice-Chancellor.

In Attendance: Registrar (until item 766/10-11), Deputy Registrar, Academic Registrar, Finance Director, Director of HR, Director of Development, Communications and Strategy, Director of Estates (from item 760/10-11), Executive Officer (Governance), Acting Head of Governance Support Services, Administrative Officer (Governance), Director of the Institute of Advanced Study and IAS Administrator (for item 763/10-11), Co-Directors of the Institute for Advanced Teaching and Learning (for item 764/10-11).

759/10-11 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2011 be approved, subject to the following amendments (deletions ~~struck through~~, additions underlined):

739/10-11 (...)

- (a) That the £10million of ~~fundraising~~ income (including income from fundraising) for WBS Phase 3b was required by the end of the project, and that discussion between Warwick Business School and the Development Office would be undertaken to establish respective targets.

(...)

760/10-11 NHS Future Forum Recommendations to Government (minute 741/10-11 refers)

CONSIDERED:

A paper from the Pro Dean/Dean of Warwick Medical School, highlighting the significant findings from the recent Department of Health consultation "*Liberating the NHS: Developing the Healthcare Workforce*", and identifying three key implications for the University (SC.538/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Dean of Warwick Medical School)

- (a) That there remained a lack of clarity surrounding the outcomes of the recent Department of Health consultation "*Liberating the NHS: Developing the Healthcare Workforce*".
- (b) That it was proposed that the Warwick Medical School undertake two actions;

- i) To work closely with the Strategic Health Authority and local NHS partners to ensure that the Local Education and Training Boards (LETBs) in this locality had strong representation from the University.
- ii) To seek to influence the future function and location of the educational aspects of the West Midlands Deanery, especially in the field of postgraduate medical education.

RESOLVED:

That the two proposed actions for the Warwick Medical School be approved.

761/10-11 Certificate/Diploma in Intercultural Communication

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

That the Vice-Chancellor had taken Chair's Action on behalf of the Steering Committee to approve the 2011/12 fees proposed by the Fees Working Group, for the Certificate/Diploma in Intercultural Communication run by CAL.

762/10-11 Medical and Dental Student Funding and Finance

RECEIVED:

A letter from the Secretary of State for Health to the President of UUK, the Chairman of the British Medical Association Council and the Chief Executive of the British Dental Association, to inform the University of changes to funding for medical and dental students starting their course in autumn 2012 (SC.542/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Dean of Warwick Medical School)

That the bursary levels for medical and dental students starting their course in 2012 had been maintained and that students would be eligible for student loans, noting that the funding arrangements would be reviewed for 2013 entry.

763/10-11 IAS Update

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Director of the Institute of Advanced Study (IAS) on current activity (SC.539/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Director of the Institute of Advanced Study)

- (a) That the 2011 Postdoctoral Research Fellowship competition had resulted in four strong appointments.
- (b) That the Postdoctoral Research Fellowship scheme be reviewed in one year to assess its effectiveness.
- (c) That engagement with the IAS was inconsistent across the University, but that all departments had been approached to encourage applications to appropriate schemes.

(by the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies)

- (d) That research undertaken by the Graduate School in conjunction with IAS had demonstrated the success of the Early Career Fellowships in developing a promising career trajectory.

RESOLVED:

That Hilary Marland be thanked for her work undertaken as outgoing Director of IAS.

764/10-11

IATL Update

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Co-Directors of the Institute for Advanced Teaching and Learning (IATL) on current activity (SC.540/10-11).

REPORTED: (by Professor Carol Rutter)

- (a) That the recruitment process for the appointments of an Assistant Professor and a Teaching Fellow/Practitioner was complete, with Dr Nicholas Monk and Jonathan Heron appointed for 3 years from 1 August 2011.
- (b) That 4 interdisciplinary modules were to be hosted by the Warwick Business School in 2011/12, with students from 10 departments already enrolled.  
  
(by Dr Paul Taylor)
- (c) That IATL had extended activities focussed on undergraduate students to taught postgraduate students, and were liaising with the Centre for Student Careers and Skills to identify the best approach to engaging with postgraduate research students.

RESOLVED:

That Professor Carol Rutter be thanked for her work undertaken as outgoing Co-Director of IATL.

765/10-11

White Paper on Higher Education

CONSIDERED:

- (a) The Government's White Paper on Higher Education "Students at the Heart of the System" (SC.541/10-11).
- (b) The UUK's initial analysis of the Government's White Paper on Higher Education "Students at the Heart of the System" (SC.548/10-11).
- (c) The Executive Summary of the HEFCE's consultation on how higher education teaching would be funded and student numbers allocated for 2012/13 (SC.547/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

- (a) That the White Paper on Higher Education would be accompanied by a number of consultations on specific areas in addition to that already published on funding of taught courses and student number allocations.
- (b) That, together with the reforms to medical education and initial teaching training, uncertainty and turbulence in the sector would continue for the coming two to three years.
- (c) That it was proposed that student number controls would be relaxed from 2012 for students with AAB grades at 'A' level, noting that while approximately 78% of the University's intake fell within this category, the proportion of students with AAB varied significantly between disciplines.

(d) That it would be necessary to consider further the size and shape of the student population.

(e) That the chapter entitled "A diverse and responsive sector" would require further discussion to understand the implications for student number control.

(by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

(f) That a further White Paper on Research in Higher Education was expected to follow later in 2011.

(by the President of the Students' Union)

(g) That he had concerns about the University's capacity to increase student numbers, given the current pressures on the Library and on-campus accommodation.

(h) That it would be timely for the Student's Union and University to develop a Student Charter in the context of the White Paper.

(by the Academic Registrar)

(i) That the University's student number planning process would increase in complexity given the need both to meet widening participation targets and to potentially take advantage of the ability to recruit more AAB+ students, or at least retain the current proportion of those students.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the Steering Committee would consider the University's draft response to the consultation on the White Paper on Higher Education "Students at the Heart of the System", prior to the submission deadline of 20 September 2011.

(b) That the Steering Committee would consider the University's draft response to the consultation on how higher education teaching would be funded and student numbers allocated from 2012/13, prior to the submission deadline of 2 September 2011.

766/10-11

Senate Business

RESOLVED:

That the comments and recommendations of the Steering Committee on the items of business for the meeting of the Senate to be held on 6 July 2011 be approved as set out in the papers circulated for the meeting of the Senate, subject to revisions as agreed in the meeting.

767/10-11

QAA Institutional Review dates (minute 669/10-11 refers)

RECEIVED:

A letter from the QAA confirming the University's Institutional Review dates (SC.537/10-11).

768/10-11

HEFCE Undergraduate Medical and Dental Intake Target (minute 677/10-11 refers)

RECEIVED:

A letter from Mr David Noyce, Associate Director of the HEFCE, in response to a letter from the Registrar dated 31 May 2011, regarding the University's undergraduate medical intake target (SC.546/10-11).

769/10-11

Revolving Green Fund

RECEIVED:

An invitation to submit applications to the second phase of the Revolving Green Fund (RGF) for projects that reduce carbon emissions (SC.544/10-11).

JFB/KP/steersshare/minutes/201011/Jul11/04Jul11